Aurangabad and Calcutta which have been practically idle since inception due to lack of orders from the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the number of persons likely to be rendered unemployed as a result of the proposed closure of these factories; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation/welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Promotion of Cultural Tourism**

1007 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to draw a plan for the improvement of cultural ambience around the tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments are being consulted in this regard;

(c) the tourist spots identified by the State Government of Orissa;

(d) whether the Union Government have asked the India Tourism Development Corporation to prepare plan and programme for the purpose;

(e) if so, the scheme prepared by the India Tourism Development Corporation in the matter; and

(f) the details of the places selected by ITDC as the venue of the cultural festival scheduled for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism has a new scheme for Refurkishment of monuments under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments to improve the surroundings of the monuments/heritage sites. The assistance is provided for the projects identified in consultation with State Governments.

(c) The following projects have been identified for Central financial assistance

1. Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites Ratnagiri.
2. Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites at Lalitgiri.
3. Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites at Udaigiri.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Distribution of Postal Articles in Rural Areas**

1008. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the details of the categories of employees engaged for the delivery of postal articles in rural areas along with the details of the facilities/pay scale given to them;

(b) whether these employees are not satisfied with their duties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any complaints regarding postal delivery in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) As on 31.03.1996, 79958 Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entrusted with the job of postal deliver work in rural areas of the country. The Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entitled to consolidated monthly allowances ranging between Rs. 240/- and Rs. 420/- depending on their workload. In addition, they are also paid the following:

(i) Dearness Allowance @ 159% of basic allowance;

(ii) Interim Relief of Rs. 50 w.e.f. 16.9.93, 10% each subject to Minimum of Rs. 50/- w.e.f. 1.4.95 and 1.4.96 respectively.

(iii) Fixed Stationery Charges @ Rs. 2/- per month.

(iv) Cycle Maintenance Allowance where applicable @ Rs. 30/- per month.

(v) Ex-gratia bonus paid once a year on the basis of their actual emoluments for the same number of days as paid to departmental employees.

(vi) Uttarakhand Division Allowance.

The Extra Departmental Agents of Uttarkhand Division are being paid on extra allowance of Rs. 40/- per annum in the month of September every year provided they have worked continuously as Extra Departmental Agent since March of that year.

(vii) Group Insurance Scheme

The Extra Departmental Agents are also covered by a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1.4.1992. The scheme is optional for the Extra Departmental Agents already in employment before 1.4.1994 and is compulsory for the Extra Departmental Agents appointed on or after 1.4.1992. The scheme